

From: ALIX HODSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:04 PM
To: Islands2050
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Islands Trust "Unique Amenities is a Problem"... Independently supervised vote of all islanders on 2050 needed

March 10, 2021
Trust Council
Islands Trust

We have grown more and more disillusioned and concerned about the Islands Trust unwillingness to pass any firm motions that make the environment the absolute priority.

In fact, Dan Rogers openly admits that the Islands Trust is just a "land-use administrator" and also consistently opposes motions that would make the environment a prime consideration. He and other Trustees, seem determined to extend the mandate to include, such things as social or affordable housing and that is not a part of their mandate, nor is it their job; it is the responsibility of other levels of government. It is rather extraordinary that they wish to add something to their authority for which they have neither the governments directive, nor the power to regulate, while consistently failing to live up to their true mandate.

The "Unique Amenities" in the mandate is the problem. It is telling that the Trust itself is not capable of defining what a "Unique Amenity" is. In fact, as one Trustee pointed out quite rightly, "Unique Amenities" are no longer unique when you keep adding to them and they are ubiquitous.

To be sure housing is not a "Unique Amenity", as nearly all Canadians are housed in one way or another.

Man is not threatened by extinction other than by his own hand: and, the population of the Gulf Islands is not under threat. What is threatened is the unique and fragile natural environment of these islands.

This is why the Trust must return to its first and original mandate that was to preserve and protect the environment. In this they have been doing a poor job as the environment has taken a back seat to all other considerations. There is a growing dissatisfaction with the Trusts unwillingness and apparent inability to protect the environment. Many islanders are in support of Steve Wright's motion and want to see the Trusts mandate amended to focus on the environment first.

The last Town Hall they had with Dan Rogers presiding was an affront to a democratic and open process. It wasn't public consultation as much as it was managing the public. When concerns and questions are vetted by a biased Trust Council these kinds of things all contribute to the eroding trust people have in this system.

If the Trust feels so confident that they know what islanders want then put the 2050 policy changes this to a general public vote that is supervised by an independent entity.

Respectfully yours,

Andrew Deggan and Alix Hodson Deggan, M.Ed.